

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-21, 23-25 are pending in this application.

Claims 16, 19, 20 and 25 have been amended in order to overcome Examiner's objections and rejections.

Claims 22 and 26 (now part of claims 20 and 25) have been deleted.

Claims 16 and 20 were objected because of the presence of minor typographical errors.

In both claims 16 and 20, Na₂ has been amended to read Na₂O.

Claim 19 was objected as being in improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Anyway as claim 19 depends on claim 16 we deem that it contains all the limitations of the previous independent claims and therefore, even if a range for SO₃ has not been introduced, claim 19 should be read as a combination of claim 16 and 19 and therefore a limitation in respect of SO₃ is present.

Anyway, in order to explicitly show the limitation, SO₃, between 0.1 to 0.5 in percent by weight has been now introduced in dependent claim 19 which should now be considered allowable.

Moreover, according to the Examiner's opinion claims 22 and 26 were objected only as being dependent upon respective rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this respect claim 20 has been amended by combining original claim 20 with claim 22, i.e. introducing a range of SO₃ between 0.1 to 0.5.

The same amendment has been made with respect to claim 25 by introducing the limitation of claim 26.

In particular SO₃ has been precised to be comprised between 0.1 to 0.25 in percent by weight.

In view of the above amendments and of the Examiner's opinion, independent claims 16, 20 and 25 should now be considered allowable.

Dependent claims 17-19, 21, 23, 24 depend now upon new and inventive claims and therefore they should be considered new and inventive too.

In view of the above amendments reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

If any fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 35763.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By John P. Murtaugh
John P. Murtaugh, Reg. No. 34226

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

Date: 12-5-03